



Key Priorities of HR 1817: The Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006

Committee on Homeland Security, Office of Communications
(202) 226-9600 <http://homeland.house.gov>

- \$34.2 billion authorized for DHS in Fiscal Year 2006
- Full funding for the recruitment and training of 2,000 new border agents
- Risk assessments conducted at all foreign ports to determine the best locations to screen cargo bound for the United States
- Standards applied to all overseas shipments before they enter the United States
- Streamlined operations to coordinate missions of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
- Single application program for conducting background checks on individuals participating in multiple programs used to expedite travel and to provide background checks and security screenings for workers
- U.S. enrollment centers and customer service operations created to improve pre-clearance border crossing programs such as NEXUS, FAST, and SENTRI
- NEXUS land and air cards merged to create one consistent NEXUS card for all travelers
- Increased sanctions for counterfeiting badges, uniforms, or other homeland security identification
- \$40 million to State and local governments for training law enforcement officials to enforce federal immigration laws
- Clearer authority for State and local authorities make felony arrests of persons who are not in the U.S. legally
- Reduced time passengers must be seated before and after landing at Reagan National Airport from 30 minutes to 15 minutes
- Federal Flight Deck Officers (FFDO) training increased; secure means established for TSA personnel to communicate with FFDO's in support of their mission; pilot program created to allow FFDO's to carry their weapon; President encouraged to pursue international agreements that will allow the use of FFDO's on international flights
- Threat Advisory System improved to communicate specific threat information directly to States, regions, industries, and all Americans
- Center of Excellence established to evaluate best ways to communicate risk to the public
- Department of Energy laboratories permitted to team with an academic university when competing to be a DHS Center of Excellence
- Secretary designated as official spokesperson for all threat information
- Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) authorized as a national, real time communication system for DHS and thousands of local agencies
- GAO to consider reducing immigration application fees for the temporary protection of individuals and families fleeing from war torn or otherwise unsafe countries

- FEMA reimbursements allowed for funeral expenses in cases where death was determined by a medical examiner to be caused by a natural disaster
- GAO to study the DHS management structure to support organizational changes to strengthen security and increase efficiency
- DHS prohibited from using increased airline ticket tax revenue
- Technology Clearinghouse created with the responsibility of identifying and transferring existing technology for anti-terrorism purposes
- Internal analytic expertise established within DHS to create and disseminate intelligence products that combat nuclear and biological terrorism
- National Terrorism Exercise Program created to perform anti-terrorism drills with Federal, State, local, and foreign governments
- Cybersecurity mission elevated by creating an Assistant Secretary for Cybersecurity in charge of the National Cybersecurity Division and National Communications System
- Red teams utilized to help inform counterterrorism measures, particularly against nuclear and biological threats
- Highly sought after intelligence analysts recruited to expand DHS role in the Intelligence Community
- Cybersecurity initiatives coordinated between DHS and the National Security Agency (NSA)
- State of the art technologies evaluated to monitor and protect the Northern border
- Critical infrastructure protection prioritized by risk, security plans for highest-risk sites reviewed, and risk assessments coordinated with other relevant Federal agencies, State, local, and tribal governments, and the private sector
- Office of Counternarcotics Enforcement authorized through FY06

#